

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge – Phase 1 Project Objectives & Elements

Origin of Phase I Project Objectives

Phase I project objectives came from the City of Portland and the Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study to recommend a restoration plan for Oaks Bottom. The restoration plan had 15 separate components from which 6 were selected for implementation and were grouped into three phases for construction.

Phase 1.

- Replace culvert and hydrologically reconnect Oaks Bottom to the Willamette River
- Modify water control structure
- Reclaim slough channels
- Restore surrounding 15-acres of Palustrine wetland habitat

Phase 2.

- Remove water control structure in north channel
- Install step weirs in north channel
- Restore surrounding Palustrine wetland habitat

Phase 3.

- Construct two primary slough channels
- Create ponds and islands in approximately 4.0 acres reservoir habitat
- Restore surrounding 27-acres reservoir and ponds

Phase I Project Objectives

1. Create viable access corridor for juvenile salmon into Oaks Bottom
2. Restore salmonid refuge, rearing habitat & wildlife habitat
3. Reduce the potential for fish stranding following high Willamette River flow events
4. Remove non-native invasive species and revegetate with a diverse mix of native plants species.
5. Community Involvement

Phase 1. Project Elements

1. New culvert crossing under the Springwater Trail & Oregon Railroad
2. Removal of existing WCS & construction of logs weirs & a new WCS, from a cedar bole, at new location
3. Slough channel excavation for salmonid rearing season habitat
4. Slough channel clear & grub for OHW connectivity to ponds to the north
5. Riparian & wetland vegetative restoration & invasive species management/ addition of habitat diversity & complexity